

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BUTTONWOODS FIRE DISTRICT

June 28, 2005

Buttonwoods Casino

8:00p.m.

The 80th Annual Meeting of the Buttonwoods Fire District was called to order at 8:04 p.m. Moderator, Mr. Mark McKenney presided.

He offered a warm welcome to the new members of the Community – Mason, Grace, and Ross.

Mr. McKenney also reminded the group of the ground rules of the Annual Meeting, and that we hold the meeting primarily to establish the budget, but that the discussion of other issues is welcome.

Reading of the Minutes of the 2004 Annual Meeting:

Mr. McKenney called for a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting (2004) that had been available to all taxpayers of the Fire District in advance, and that the reading of the minutes be waived. The reading of the minutes was waived.

Motion to accept minutes passed.

Reports of Buttonwood Fire District Officers

Mr. McKenney called for the reports of the Officers and Supervisors.

Treasurer's Report:

Mr. Joe Suffredini reported that the opening balance was \$151,922. Expenses for the Roads, Casino, and Seawall were reviewed. Ending balance is \$147,156. We have a Road Reserve of \$32,892 (after a \$20,000 transfer to the Casino Restoration Fund) for when we finally get sewers. We have a Casino Reserve of \$15,168, which is net of the \$46,696 of the Capital improvements paid in 2005 and also \$30,346 of Capital improvement payables for work to be completed. We have a Seawall Reserve of \$35,000. The total unallocated reserve as of May 31, 2005 is \$33,749. Motion passed to accept report as is.

Tax Assessor's Report:

Mr. Farrell reported that the Tax Rate determined by the Board of Tax Assessors for 2004/2005 was \$1.15 per \$1,000.00 of real estate. (It was noted that the date on the document June 29, 2003 was meant to read June 29, 2004) The total valuation of taxable real estate is \$71,598,300 as of December 31, 2003. Senior and G.I. valuation exemptions totaled \$306,000. The net taxable valuation totaled \$71,292,300. There were no applications for abatements received. Tax credits of \$62 under the Circuit Breaker or Hardship program were granted. The net calculated revenue from taxes was \$81,986 a total within the range specified by the revenue resolution (within \$500 of the budget).

The Chapel is exempt from taxation by the Buttonwoods Fire District

(BFD). BFD is subject to Warwick City taxes, whereas the Chapel is not. With no questions the report was accepted as submitted.

Tax Collector's Report:

Mr. Farrell reported that the total taxes collected through May 31, 2005 were \$83,712. In addition \$665 were collected between May 31 and the June 28 meeting. He also noted that there was only \$20 of unpaid taxes – the lowest amount in his memory. With no questions the report was accepted as submitted.

Auditor's Report:

Mr. Alibrandi presented the Auditors report noting to the group that he thoroughly reviewed the financial procedures and policies with the Treasurer, Tax Assessor, Tax Collector and Casino Committee Treasurer. He felt confident that they are very qualified and conscientious in the handling of the Fire District's money. New to the audit process in 2005 was a review of the Casino Committee financials. Some additional controls and procedures were implemented as a result. After no questions there was a motion to adopt the report. The motion was accepted.

Clerk's Report:

Patricia Wegrzyn reported that she received no correspondence during the year.

Supervisors' Report:

Senior Supervisor, Peter Dorsey, presented his report. He started by noting that the tunnel of trees on Buttonwoods Avenue are the portal to a special place – made so by the activities that take place in the neighborhood. He thanked all of the people for their efforts around our great activities including Karen Way and the successful Cocktail Classic, Dave Lussier and Harry Pass on the 4th of July, the Dinner Club, Kathy Gilman and the Chapel Committee, and Claire Flaherty and Kathy Falleguerra on the Casino Committee.

He then gave a Sewer update noting that in 10 weeks the project will be underway. After 3 years of waiting we have permits and the final date for bid submission on our project will be at the end of July, 2005. Thus, within eighteen months the project should be complete.

Peter then thanked Sue Phipps, Ken MacNaught, Sharon Fitzgerald and Judy Taton. He found them great to work with and was happy to have had the opportunity to do so. In addition, he noted that Joe Suffredini was worth his weight in gold for his efforts in finding very cost effective Workers Compensation insurance, and presented Joe with a gift of appreciation.

With no questions, the report was accepted as submitted.

Doug Rademacher then recognized Peter Dorsey for his years of service to the Fire District.

Judy Taton then reported that she spoke with the Fire Marshall who will inspect the building and sprinklers in the Casino once the work is complete. Based on their conversation we can feel confident that our facilities will be in compliance.

Reports of BFD Committees

Casino Committee:

Claire Flaherty began by thanking Dave Curry and John Carbone for their efforts in the past.

Dave Greenan has taken over as Casino Treasurer and Barbara and Bill McCarty are now responsible for rentals.

The Casino will be open June 28th to August 26th. Mr. Conti will return as steward.

She then thanked the many volunteers for helping to fill 2 dumpsters with old trash from the building.

Planned events include the 4th of July celebration, cocktails on the Point on July 15th, Killer Cabaret on August 13th, and the Steak Fry on September 4th.

The report of the Casino Committee was accepted.

Casino Preservation Committee: submitted by David Falaguerra / read by Patricia Wegrzyn

Projects completed between 2001 and 2003 include the Cooper Avenue door and steps, electrical updates including replacement of wiring and installation of emergency lighting.

2004 – 2005 improvements included the restoration of the Cooper Avenue louver vent, porch lighting, repair of the bowling alley bumpers and installation of the sprinkler and fire alarm systems.

No new projects are slated for 2005-2006 other than the completion of the sprinkler system. When funds are replenished in the future there are plans to improve the sidewalks to the Casino.

Through fiscal year 2004-2005 \$45,000 was available to the Casino Restoration Committee. The sprinkler and alarm system cost \$75,000 and so at the June 29, 2004 annual meeting the authorization was given to divert funds from the road maintenance fund to bridge this gap. Thus, in order to restore these diverted funds and to continue future restoration projects the Committee is requesting a \$12,000 budget for the coming fiscal year.

There were no questions and the report was accepted as submitted.

Tennis Committee – Reported by Ray Way

Ray noted that the treasury contained \$3,558 and that the plan calls for a \$1,500 spend to have the cracks in the hard courts filled and the surrounding shrubs cut back. The clay courts look terrific after the reconditioning. The \$2,700 bill for such was submitted to the Beach Association for payment.

Pay 'n Play will be held on August 8th and the Casino Committee is sponsoring a tennis camp the week of July 25th.

With no questions the report was accepted as given.

Reports of Other Community Committees (non BFD)

Buttonwood Beach Association:

Mark McKenney noted for the group the continuity of the Beach Association Board vs. the planned turnover of the Fire District Board. He also reminded the group that there are very little in cash assets and that the value is in the common land, which is not for sale as the tax status depends on this requirement. As such, to maintain its private nature the BBA must assert it's property rights and can't let things "just happen" on the land. Permission must be requested to use BBA property.

Without questions the report was accepted.

Buttonwood Chapel Committee:

Kathy Gilman reported that the schedule was set for the annual Ham

and Bean Supper (July 21st) and the Youth Service (August 28th).

She reminded the group of the Committee's continued commitment to preservation and restoration and noted that a new circuit breaker system had been installed. In addition, fans and other electrical work will be done.

Ken MacNaught then introduced the Adopt a Chair initiative. The program is aimed at restoring the 100+ antique chairs, which are in various states of condition. For \$160 members of the community can adopt a chair in memory of a person, in honor of a wedding or baptism, etc. He had lined up the services of a blind man in Harrisville, RI and showed an example of one of the beautifully restored chairs. Without questions the report was accepted.

Buttonwood Garden Club:

Karen Way noted that the Cocktail Classic was fantastic and thanked the Lynn Carol and the committee for their hard work and the community for its support. The proceeds will be used for new tables in the Casino.

The usual rotation of ongoing weeding and planting was underway in the gardens and baskets.

She also reminded the group that the hors d'oeuvre cookbooks were for sale and that in the Fall daffodils will be planted on Buttonwoods

Ave.

Without questions the report was accepted.

Reading of Communications:

There were no communications.

Old Business:

There was no unfinished business from the 2004 meeting.

New Business:

Budget Presentation and Resolution 2004 - 2005

Sharon Fitzgerald presented the 2005 budget and resolution, which called for a total budget of \$83,998. Categories discussed were Casino, Grounds, Insurance, Misc., Roads, Taxes, Tennis, and Waterfront. Most of the proposed budgets were consistent with the 2004-2005 spending with a few exceptions. The first item noted was the \$7,280 for Casino Operating Expenses. The increase was primarily related to the Workers Comp insurance and payroll services required for the Steward. The \$3,000 in Tree Management is being used to look at the trees in the common areas. If determined unsafe they will be trimmed or cut down. The Legal and Accounting budget has been reduced to \$2,500 as we have lower sewer and open meeting legal bills. Security has been increased to \$2,500 to support

additional usage. An additional \$2,000 was put aside for Paving and Engineering to be used post sewers. Finally, \$6,200 was allotted for Snow Plowing, reflecting the past 3 year average.

A 5 minute recess was taken.

Budget Acceptance and Resolution:

The budget was then accepted. Three resolutions were read by Mr. Farrell - Budget Resolution for \$83,998, Tax Resolution and the Tax Anticipation Borrowing Resolution - not to exceed \$20,000 (authorization for Treasurer to borrow funds).

All three resolutions were approved.

Report of the Nominating Committee: Ken MacNaught

The following names are hereby placed in nomination for the offices and terms stated:

For Supervisors, for a three year term, from this date to the BFD annual meeting three years hence in June, 2008 – Robert Remick.

For one year terms, from this date to the BFD annual meeting in 2005:

For Moderator – Mark McKenney

For Clerk – Patricia Wegrzyn

For Treasurer – Joseph Suffredini

For Tax Assessors – John Farrell, David Dickerman, Steven Marcks

For Tax Collector – John Farrell

For Auditor – Victor Alibrandi

Accepted as above. Next year Peter Dorsey will chair the Nominating Committee for 2006.

Election of Officers and Supervisors: Mark McKenney

Board of Supervisors: Sharon Fitzgerald - Sr. Supervisor

Judy Taton – Supervisor

Robert Remick - New Supervisor

Ratification of Acts of Officers and Supervisors:

The Officers will be as above. All were elected and the Clerk cast a single ballot for the slate. The motion passed. The ratification of the acts of the officers was passed.

Miscellaneous:

Mrs. Edwards then noted that there has been significant speeding, unauthorized parking and noise in the west end of the neighborhood.

Sharon Fitzgerald noted that security has been increased but the

supervisors agreed to further look into Mrs. Edwards' concerns.

Mr. McKenney then offered thanks to all involved in both the Fire District and the community. He especially thanked the supervisors who put in a great effort, particularly Peter Dorsey, who went above and beyond on the sewer project. The group then gave Peter a round of applause and standing ovation. Sharon Fitzgerald presented Peter with a certificate to pick out a tree to be planted where he wants with a plaque on it.

Call for Adjournment

Motion to adjourn accepted. The meeting adjourned at 9:27p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia E. Wegrzyn